

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 26, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2546

Introduced by Assembly Member Donnelly
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Grove and Jones)
(Coauthor: Senator La Malfa)

February 24, 2012

An act to amend Sections 33540, 51220, and 60043 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2546, as amended, Donnelly. Pupil instruction: social sciences: instructional materials.

(1) Existing law requires the Instructional Quality Commission to ensure that certain historical documents are incorporated, as appropriate, into the history-social science framework.

This bill would add the Magna Carta, the Articles of Confederation, and the California Constitution to the historical documents that are required to be incorporated into that framework and would require them to be incorporated based on the subject matter of the course.

(2) Existing law requires instruction in social sciences for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to provide a foundation for understanding the history, resources, development, and government of California and the United States of America.

This bill would require instruction in the social sciences also to include the development of democracy and the history of the development of the United States Constitution. To the extent that this requirement would

require additional instruction, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(3) Existing law requires the governing board of a school district, when adopting instructional materials for use in the schools to require, when appropriate to the comprehension of pupils, that textbooks for social science, history, or civics classes contain the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.

~~This bill would delete the condition that these documents be included when appropriate to the comprehension of pupils and would require~~ that a classroom in which history or the social sciences is taught have access to a copy of the California Constitution. By requiring certain classrooms to have access to a copy of the California Constitution, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(4) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 33540 of the Education Code is amended
2 to read:
3 33540. (a) The state board and the department shall request
4 that the commission review and revise, as necessary, the course
5 requirements in the history-social science framework developed
6 by the History-Social Science Curriculum Framework and Criteria
7 Committee of the state board to ensure that minimum standards
8 for courses in American government and civics include sufficient
9 attention to teaching pupils how to interact, in a practical manner,
10 with state and local governmental agencies and representatives to
11 solve problems and to petition for changes in laws and procedures.
12 (b) When the history-social science framework is revised as
13 required by law, the commission shall ensure that the following
14 historical documents are incorporated into the framework, as
15 appropriate, based on the subject matter of the course:

- 1 (1) The Declaration of Independence.
- 2 (2) The United States Constitution, including the Bill of Rights.
- 3 (3) The Federalist Papers.
- 4 (4) The Emancipation Proclamation.
- 5 (5) The Gettysburg Address.
- 6 (6) George Washington's Farewell Address.
- 7 (7) The Magna Carta.
- 8 (8) The Articles of Confederation.
- 9 (9) The California Constitution.

10 SEC. 2. Section 51220 of the Education Code is amended to
11 read:

12 51220. The adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12,
13 inclusive, shall offer courses in the following areas of study:

14 (a) English, including knowledge of and appreciation for
15 literature, language, and composition, and the skills of reading,
16 listening, and speaking.

17 (b) Social sciences, drawing upon the disciplines of
18 anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science,
19 psychology, and sociology, designed to fit the maturity of the
20 pupils. Instruction shall provide a foundation for understanding
21 the history, resources, development, and government of California
22 and the United States of America, including the development of
23 democracy and the history of the development of the United States
24 Constitution; instruction in our American legal system, the
25 operation of the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems, and
26 the rights and duties of citizens under the criminal and civil law
27 and the State and Federal Constitutions; the development of the
28 American economic system, including the role of the entrepreneur
29 and labor; the relations of persons to their human and natural
30 environment; eastern and western cultures and civilizations; human
31 rights issues, with particular attention to the study of the
32 inhumanity of genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust, and
33 contemporary issues.

34 (c) Foreign language or languages, beginning not later than
35 grade 7, designed to develop a facility for understanding, speaking,
36 reading, and writing the particular language.

37 (d) Physical education, with emphasis given to physical activities
38 that are conducive to health and to vigor of body and mind, as
39 required by Section 51222.

1 (e) Science, including the physical and biological aspects, with
2 emphasis on basic concepts, theories, and processes of scientific
3 investigation and on the place of humans in ecological systems,
4 and with appropriate applications of the interrelation and
5 interdependence of the sciences.

6 (f) Mathematics, including instruction designed to develop
7 mathematical understandings, operational skills, and insight into
8 problem-solving procedures.

9 (g) Visual and performing arts, including dance, music, theater,
10 and visual arts, with emphasis upon development of aesthetic
11 appreciation and the skills of creative expression.

12 (h) Applied arts, including instruction in the areas of consumer
13 and homemaking education, industrial arts, general business
14 education, or general agriculture.

15 (i) Career technical education designed and conducted for the
16 purpose of preparing youth for gainful employment in the
17 occupations and in the numbers that are appropriate to the
18 personnel needs of the state and the community served and relevant
19 to the career desires and needs of the pupils.

20 (j) Automobile driver education, designed to develop a
21 knowledge of the provisions of the Vehicle Code and other laws
22 of this state relating to the operation of motor vehicles, a proper
23 acceptance of personal responsibility in traffic, a true appreciation
24 of the causes, seriousness, and consequences of traffic accidents,
25 and to develop the knowledge and attitudes necessary for the safe
26 operation of motor vehicles. A course in automobile driver
27 education shall include education in the safe operation of
28 motorcycles.

29 (k) Other studies as may be prescribed by the governing board.

30 SEC. 3. Section 60043 of the Education Code is amended to
31 read:

32 60043. (a) When adopting instructional materials for use in
33 the schools, the governing board shall require, *when appropriate*
34 *to the comprehension of pupils*, that textbooks for social science,
35 history, or civics classes contain the Declaration of Independence
36 and the Constitution of the United States.

37 (b) A classroom in which history or the social sciences is taught
38 shall have access to a copy of the California Constitution.

39 SEC. 4. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
40 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to

1 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
2 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
3 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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